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MARCH 1985

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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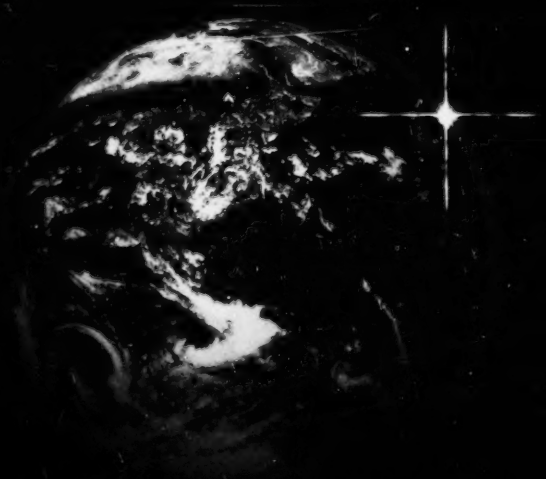

The Software Revolution

Awards of Merit Honor 11 Cities

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March 1985 Vol. 100, No. 3

FEATURES

31 The Software Revolution and Microcomputer Systems
New computer programs and equipment enhancements increase capabilities.

32 ☐ A Quiet Revolution

38 ☐ The Sounds of Silence

40 ☐ Keys To Software Security

42 ☐ Iowa Legislature Finds Copier a Capital Investment

44 ☐ Fridley Finds Software Saves

64 Lighting Need Not Be Expensive
Recent developments allow lower costs and increased revenues.

66 ☐ Ben (Franklin) Would Be Proud

68 ☐ Get Your Money's Worth

68 ☐ Contracts Cut Municipal Energy Costs

74 Strategic Planning: Finding Solutions to Future Challenges
Better long-term planning and strategizing can benefit communities.

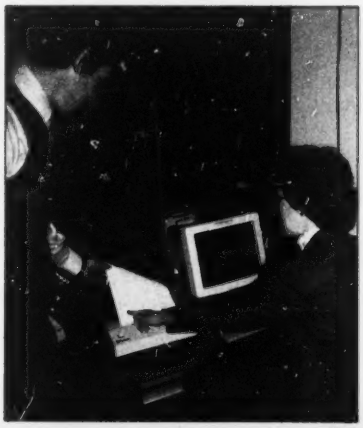
79 ☐ A Study in Contrast in Kokomo and Pasadena

80 ☐ Purchasing Professionals Working To Save a Buck

82 Awards of Merit: Honors Given to 11 Cities
Winners include communities that have improved services to citizens.

90 Special Report: Keeping Tabs on Repair Needs
An assessment is needed to deal with staggering infrastructure bill.

91 ☐ Wetlands Disposal Is Sewage Option



82

64

DEPARTMENTS

8 Calendar
4 Editor's View
19 Financial Management
22 Industry News
10 Inside Washington
96 Literature
102 Municipal Cost Indexes
93 New Products
14 Newsmakers
16 Office Automation
94 Services & Contracts

About the Cover

The expansion and specialization of computer software and the emergence of microcomputer systems now bring true office automation to the local government level. (Photo by David Dobbs)

74

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.1 percent for the month to 333.6, due largely to a 0.2 percent increase in the **Construction Cost Index** and a 0.1 percent increase in the **Consumer Price Index**. The **Producer Price Index** was the only index not showing an increase, falling 0.2 percent to 309.9.

Within the **Producer Price Index**, commodities showing the largest decreases include diesel fuel, fuel oil no. 2, gasoline, gypsum products, lp gas and mixed fertilizers. In quarterly municipal trends, federal grants to local governments decreased 1.2 percent for the quarter, while local government surplus decreased 1.6 percent. □

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	144.5	0.1	0.8
Apparel	201.8	0.1	1.4
Asphalt Roofing	412.0	0.3	7.2
Books	130.1	0.4	4.7
Chemicals, Industrial	335.2	0.1	−4.0
Coal	548.2	0.3	0.8
Concrete Products	312.1	0.2	2.6
Construction Machinery	358.2	−0.5	1.3
Diesel Fuel	670.2	−1.1	−4.6
Electric Components	196.9	0.1	4.7
Electric Lamps	341.6	0.3	3.1
Electric Power	441.2	−0.5	5.7
Engines, I.C.	344.7	−0.9	2.5
Fans, Blowers	351.5	0.0	4.5
Fertilizers, Mixed	261.1	−0.9	0.1
Floor Coverings	189.3	0.1	− 0.1
Flow Instruments	100.4	0.0	N/A
Footwear	249.6	0.2	− 0.3
Foundry Products	363.1	0.2	2.9
Fuel Oil No. 2	695.4	−2.6	−4.7
Furniture	299.8	−0.4	3.6
Gasoline	554.5	−1.7	−5.5
Generator Sets	342.2	0.1	1.8
Glass	218.1	0.3	−5.1
Glass Containers	364.1	−0.2	3.9
Gypsum Products	329.3	−0.9	2.1
Hardware	300.2	0.4	2.3
Heating Equipment	256.4	0.0	4.4
HVAC Controls	124.9	0.6	3.7
LP Gas	606.5	−1.4	−11.3
Lubricants	370.2	0.1	0.9
Lumber	339.6	−0.1	N/A
Metal Fabrications	313.2	0.1	2.4
Millwork	312.5	0.9	1.3
Motor Vehicle Parts	354.1	−0.2	0.5
Mowers	260.1	−0.2	2.4
Natural Gas	1417.3	−0.5	1.2
Office Machines	153.0	−0.6	−1.6
Paint	277.3	0.1	4.7
Paper	307.1	−0.4	6.2
Passenger Cars	223.4	0.2	0.6
Plumbing Fixtures	302.7	0.4	3.0
Plywood	235.8	0.3	−4.6
Portland Cement	359.3	0.1	6.1
Pumps	352.2	−0.6	1.6
Residual Fuel	1129.8	−0.2	1.8
Sand, Gravel	296.8	−0.2	3.8
Sanitary Papers	371.9	−0.1	3.3
Soaps, Detergents	270.5	0.4	3.5
Sporting Goods	206.1	−0.1	0.5
Steel Mill Products	368.0	0.0	2.2
Struc. Clay Products	289.0	0.0	1.7
Switchgear	274.7	−0.1	0.5
Tires, Tubes	243.7	−0.1	0.6
Transformers	229.3	0.2	3.1
Trucks	331.2	0.0	4.2
Valves	102.8	0.0	2.8
Wire, Cable	201.2	−0.1	−0.2
Wiring Devices	344.9	−0.3	3.3

At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

Last Year 326.5 | Last Month 333.3 | This Month 333.6

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.1 Year 2.2

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

Last Year 359.8 | Last Month 363.7 | This Month 364.6

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.2 Year 1.3

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 303.1 | Last Month 315.3 | This Month 315.5

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.1 Year 4.1

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 305.6 | Last Month 310.4 | This Month 309.9

Percent Change From Last: Month −0.2 Year 1.4

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	523.3B	0.5	7.7
Federal Grants	92.1B	−1.2	6.2
Durable Purchases	14.3B	2.1	6.7
Consumables	36.9B	1.7	10.1
Services	360.0B	2.0	8.6
Structures	48.0B	8.6	13.5
Salaries, Wages	263.0B	1.8	8.0
Surplus	45.8B	−1.6	−3.4
Employment	13.315M	0.3	1.6

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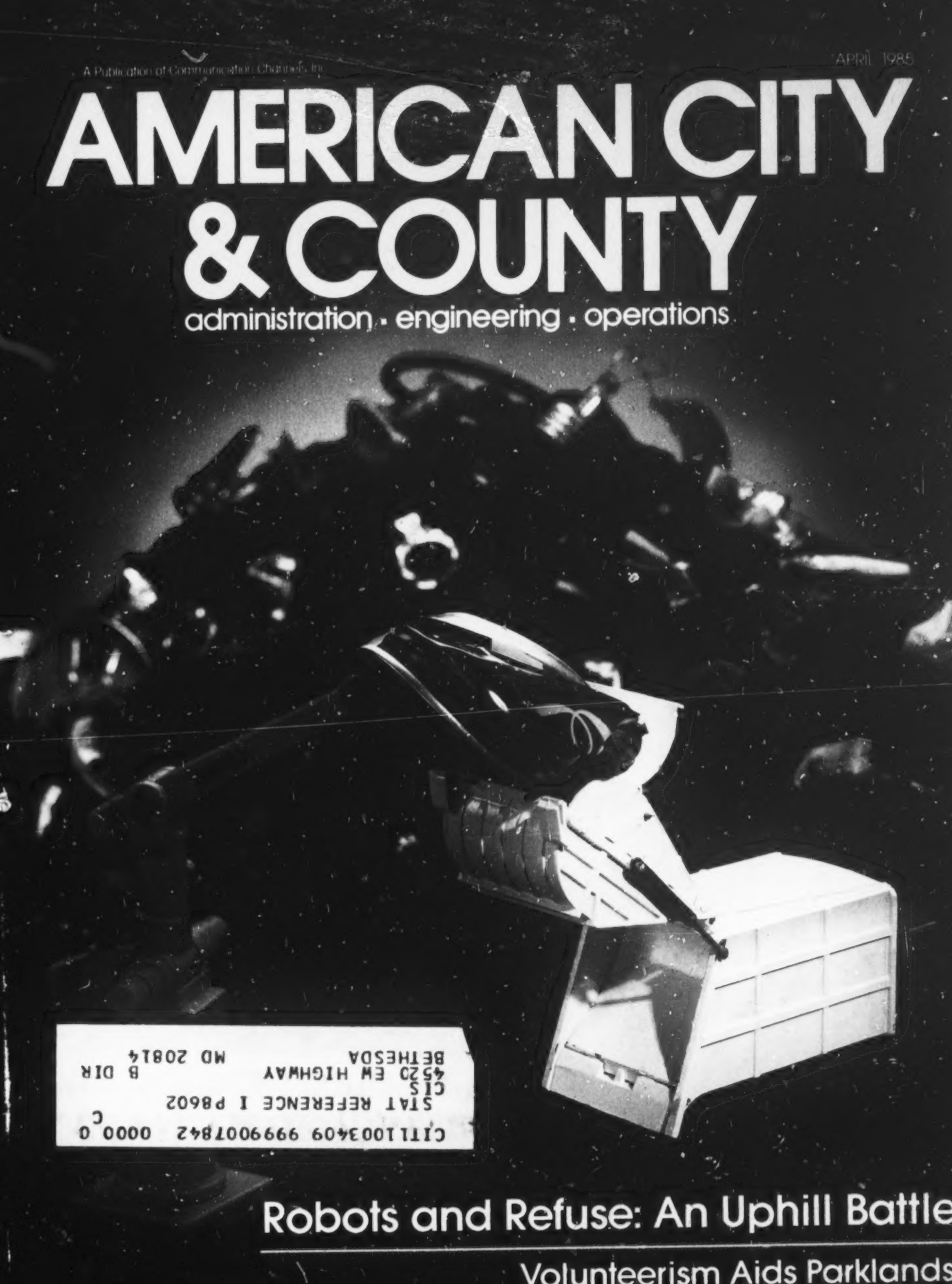

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Robots and Refuse: An Uphill Battle

Volunteerism Aids Parklands

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April 1985 Vol. 100, No. 4

FEATURES

32 Robots and Refuse: An Uphill Battle
New techniques are saving time and money, but converts are slow.

34 ☐ Landfill System Provides Protection for Aquifer

36 ☐ Semi-automated Cart System Saving Windy City Millions

38 Small Isn't So Small Anymore
Small quantities of hazardous waste are becoming a big problem.

42 ☐ Varied Solutions Implemented For Small Quantity Hazwaste

44 ☐ Trash Pickup Is an Art in Colonial Williamsburg

48 ☐ Product Review: Solid Waste

52 Volunteers Aid America's Parks
Filling the gap left by budget cuts, volunteers are getting the job done.

53 ☐ Dayton-Montgomery County Park District Uses Hundreds of Volunteers

56 ☐ Carriage Hill: A Home Away From Home

60 ☐ Volunteers Help Keep Motocross on Track

64 ☐ Delray Beach, Fla., Wins 1st Place

66 Quality Teamwork Stays on Target
Local governments can benefit from private sector management ideas.

72 ☐ Information Can Ease Decision-making Role

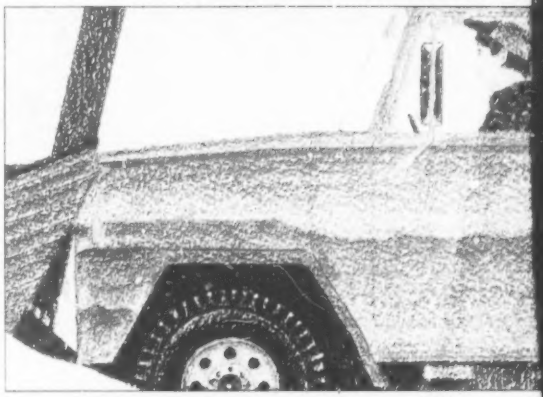
74 Snowfighters Face Many Challenges
Public officials need to be ready to battle snow and ice at any time.

76 ☐ Video and Sensor Systems Help Prevent Accidents

78 ☐ Radios Improve Snowfighting

87 Special Report: Employee 'Rights' Cause Concern for Managers
New York City Mayor Ed Koch discusses difficulties in employee relations.

32



74

DEPARTMENTS

6 Calendar
4 Editor's View
16 Financial Management
93 From the Archives
20 Industry News
10 Inside Washington
96 Literature
102 Municipal Cost Indexes
89 New Products
12 Newsmakers
19 Office Automation
94 Services & Contracts

About the Cover

Automated refuse collection has gained only grudging acceptance in the United States in the last 15 years, despite many success stories. A look at this controversial subject begins on page 32. (Photo by Jeff Licata)

52

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